

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend paragraph [0003] of the Specification as follows:

[0003] Japanese Patent No. 2,898,437, which was first publishes as JP 4,231,403 A, and has as a counterpart U.S. Patent No. 5,151,246, gives 0.2% by weight of titanium hydride and sodium hydrogen carbonate as specific examples of a foaming agent. The use of titanium hydride or sodium hydrogen carbonate having a high reducing power is usual for foaming aluminum having a high affinity for oxygen. Titanium hydride and sodium hydrogen carbonate, however, have the drawback that they are expensive and raise the cost of manufacturing a foamed or porous metal. Moreover, they produce hydrogen gas which is so explosive as to call for the utmost care in handling and thereby impose a heavy burden on the workers. Thus, there is a serious demand for a foaming agent which can be used at a low cost without producing any danger of hydrogen explosion when manufacturing a foamed or porous metal.